

We claim:

1. An absorbent device comprising:

a) an absorbent structure comprising an absorbent component that consists essentially of absorbent material that has a Centrifuge Retention (distilled water) of less than about 10 g/g;

b) an outer layer that substantially covers the absorbent structure and that has a different composition than the absorbent structure, comprising modified cellulosic fibers that have carboxyalkyl substituted regions and a Centrifuge Retention (distilled water) of at least about 1 g/g.

2. The absorbent device of claim 1 wherein the outer layer comprises a cover.

3. The absorbent device of claim 2 wherein the cover comprises a nonwoven fabric comprising a mixture of modified cellulosic fibers and thermoplastic fibers.

4. The absorbent device of claim 3 wherein the thermoplastic fibers are formed of polymeric materials selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, polyamines, and combinations thereof.

5. The absorbent device of claim 2 wherein the cover comprises about 5 to about 40 wt-% modified cellulosic fibers and about 95 to about 60 wt-% thermoplastic fibers.

6. The absorbent device of claim 2 wherein the cover is bonded to the absorbent structure.

7. The absorbent device of claim 1 wherein the modified cellulosic fibers comprise rayon fibers having carboxymethyl cellulose ("CMC") regions on their outer surface.

8. The absorbent device of claim 7 wherein the CMC is substituted onto rayon with a degree of substitution of about 0.2 to about 0.5 CMC groups per glucose unit.

9. An absorbent tampon comprising

a) an absorbent structure comprising an absorbent component that consists essentially of absorbent material that has a Centrifuge Retention (distilled water) of less than about 10 g/g;

b) an outer layer that substantially covers the absorbent structure and that has a different composition than the absorbent structure, comprising modified cellulosic fibers that have carboxyalkyl substituted regions and a Centrifuge

Retention (distilled water) of at least about 1 g/g.

10. The absorbent tampon of claim 9 wherein the absorbent structure is substantially free of the modified cellulosic fibers.

11. The absorbent tampon of claim 9 wherein the outer layer comprises a cover.

12. The absorbent tampon of claim 11 wherein the cover comprises a nonwoven fabric comprising a mixture of modified cellulosic fibers and thermoplastic fibers.

13. The absorbent tampon of claim 11 wherein the thermoplastic fibers are formed of polymeric materials selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, polyamines, and combinations thereof.

14. The absorbent tampon of claim 12 wherein the cover comprises about 5 to about 40 wt-% modified cellulosic fibers and about 95 to about 60 wt-% thermoplastic fibers.

15. The absorbent tampon of claim 11 wherein the cover is bonded to the absorbent structure.

16. The absorbent tampon of claim 9 wherein the modified cellulosic fibers comprise rayon fibers having carboxymethyl cellulose ("CMC") regions on their outer surface.

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17. The absorbent tampon of claim 16 wherein the CMC is substituted onto rayon with a degree of substitution of about 0.2 to about 0.5 CMC groups per glucose unit.

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18. An absorbent device comprising:

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a) an absorbent structure comprising an absorbent component that consists essentially of absorbent material that has a Centrifuge Retention (distilled water) of less than about 10 g/g;

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b) an outer layer that substantially covers the absorbent structure and that has a different composition than the absorbent structure and a Centrifuge Retention (distilled water) of at least about 1 g/g.